

At the time, Albetta noted, the tiny cemetery was a lot overgrown with weeds and covered with debris, litter and garbage. It was an unofficial dog run.

For many years, he said, local homeowners had wanted to refurbish and beautify the site. Going back as far as 1935, a local weekly newspaper had an article stating homeowners wanted to turn the lot into a "thing of beauty."

Their attempts at that time were futile, Albetta noted, since the paper later noted: "It is believed these imbedded gravestones will be lost to the world for all time."

With the enthusiasm of youth, Albetta threw himself into the project of restoring and cleaning up the lot and making it a local shrine in honor of the Remsen family and other Revolutionary War heroes.

He became chairman of the Remsen Park Coalition and enlisted the aid of local legislators, civic workers, Continental American Legion Post 1424 and members of his Pace fraternity, Alpha Phi Delta in trying to make the dumping ground a place of beauty again.

With the help of Boy Scout Troop Pack 349 and youth groups from St. Luke's and Grace Lutheran churches, Albetta spent a long day on April 11 cleaning the plot of the accumulations of a long winter.

He also noted that, after four years of historical research and with the help of Councilman Arthur Katzman (D-Forest Hills), the cemetery and surrounding area has officially been renamed Remsen Square and is now a fitting memorial to the Revolutionary War soldiers.

The one-time dumping ground is now surrounded by Japanese cherry trees and flowers planted by the Remsen Park Coalition and at the head of each gravesite is a new tombstone. The coalition has also applied to the city's landmarks Preservation Commission seeking such status for the cemetery.

On May 24 and 25, the American Legion Post will, in conjunction with the Forest Hills Memorial Day Committee, sponsor a celebration to "make the community aware of its rich historical heritage and to honor our nation's fallen soldiers."

Festivities will begin at 9 a. m. on May 24 in Forest Park near Remsen Square, when more than 200 members of the Historic Commands of the American Revolution will stage an encampment. Colonial-style